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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00863 021429Z

51
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 PRS-01 SAM-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /063 W
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O 021205Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1290

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0863

DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CY UR MARR
SUBJ: PRESS-PLAY ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S MARCH 1 CALL ON MAKARIOS
AND REFERENCE TO AMERICAN U-2 FLIGHTS

REF: NICOSIA 0859

1. UNDER HEADING "DURING YESTERDAY MEETING WITH MAKARIOS, MR. ASTAVIN ASKED FOR EXPLANATION IN CONNECTION WITH U-2 AIRCRAFT" RIGHT-WING, NATIONALIST MACHI MARCH 2 REPORTED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH MAKARIOS YESTERDAY REFLECTED INCREASED SOVIET INTEREST IN CYRPUS PROBLEM. IN APPARENT CONTRADICTION TO HEADING, STORY INDICATED IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER ASTAVIN MADE REFERENCE TO POSSIBILITY THAT IN ADDITION OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES U-2 FLIGHTS FROM AKROTI ALSO HAVE MISSION TO GATHER INFORMATION "ON MOVEMENTS OF SOVIET FLEET IN MEDITERRANEAN."

2. RADICAL LEFTIST TA NEA SAME DATE REPORTED ASTAVIN-MAKARIOS MEETING WAS CONCERNED WITH DEVELOPMENTS AT UNITED NATIONS IN CYPRUS DEBATE BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIAL AND PAPER MADE NO MENTION OF U-2 FLIGHTS.

3. THIS STORY IS OF RELATIVELY MINOR SIGNIFICANCE TODAY BUT, AS PAST WEEK'S EXPERIENCE SHOWS, IT CAN QUICKLY EXPAND INTO MAJOR
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PRESS ITEM. THEREFORE, REQUEST DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE ON LINE WE

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SHOULD FOLLOW ON "IF ASKED" BASIS SHOULD STORY DEVELOP.
CRAWFORD

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 02 MAR 1975
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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